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NO 17

EXCISE

DC/15

## Office Memorandum : UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : EE - Mr. Huston

DATE: April 13, 1961

FROM : EE - Mr. [Signature]

SUBJECT: French Inquiry Regarding Foreign Activities in Albania

Your memo of April 11.

I would suggest that you reply to Mr. de Juniac's inquiry in the following vein:

1. The Department is following developments in the Albanian situation with great interest. It is, however, handicapped by the absence of direct American representation in Albania. In this connection, the recent French offer made to our Embassy in Paris to make available to us certain reports prepared by the French Minister at Tirana is very much appreciated. As Mr. de Juniac is undoubtedly aware, we have, through our Embassy, gratefully accepted this offer and hope soon to receive information from this source.

2. The Department believes that there may be some merit in the Yugoslav contention that undue agitation or unrest in Albania, inspired from outside, could have undesirable effects and perhaps play into Soviet hands. We are not, however, convinced that the situation within Albania has as yet deteriorated to that point.

3. In this connection, and on the basis of such information as is available to us, we are convinced that recent reports alleging foreign activities in Albania are, to a large extent, exaggerated. Insofar as there may be truth in them, we believe that the sensational conclusions which have been drawn by the press are the result of a telescoping of the events of the past number of months in such a manner as to make it appear that this type of activity has substantially increased, rather than an actual increase in such activities.

4. As regards who is in fact responsible for such activities as may be going on, the Department has no concrete information. We have noted, however, that such reports as appear to be of substance seem in their majority to ascribe this activity to emigre or refugee Albanian elements, principally in Italy. It is dangerous, however, in our judgment, to

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conclude from this that Albanian elements in Italy are exclusively or even primarily involved. Albanian exile and refugee elements are concentrated in a number of countries in the general area, and, furthermore, reports of these activities must be considered and evaluated with due regard to the political and other interests of the sources which actually publicize them.

cc: EE - Mr. Reinhardt  
S/P - Mr. Joyce

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*Approved by R.P. 9/7/74*

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